



FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ROY E. MILLER, SHERIFF · 129 COURTHOUSE PLAZA · WAUSEON, OHIO 43567
OFFICE - (419) 335-4010 FAX - (419) 337-2408

June 12, 2017

VIOLENT OFFENDER REGISTRY LETTER OF SUPPORT

My name is Sheriff Roy Miller. I have been involved with law enforcement for 26 years, starting as Road Patrol then moving to Detective, Lieutenant, Chief Deputy and elected as Sheriff in 2013. I am writing this letter of support on the Violent Offender Registry as both a father of four children and Sheriff.

July of 2016, I was awoken from sleep to my phone ringing; a Deputy on the other end telling me that we had a situation. A night and 5 days, I will never forget the rest of my life. Working with Sierah's family was especially hard. To the family whose daughter was missing, I am sure it seemed like we were not moving fast enough. Where do we start? The question all law enforcement had. We turned to the Ohio and Michigan sex offender list to see if there were any in the area; it was a place to start. About 2 days later, an arrest was made and then Sierah's body found. The suspect had a history of similar act years back thus causing the reason you are here today. The Violent Offender Registry.

First, thank you to Senators Hite and Gardner, for getting law enforcement involved in this Bill right from the start. I do not have a crystal ball to know how different the outcome of Sierah's case would have been, if there would have been a law like this in place. I do know that if such a law had existed, the suspect would have been spoken to sooner. Even if an offender would have expired from the list and fulfilled their obligation, law enforcement officers seeing these offenders every 3, 6 months or once a year, for several years will make you remember them. This registry would be another tool in the officer's toolkit that may save someone's life if we could get to the victim quicker.

The BSSA is supporting this law; it is likely the Violent Offender Registry may be added to our existing sex offender registry system. I have spoken with many other Sheriffs who support this bill, like other laws requested of the Sheriffs to be responsible for, money is a concern, as well as which offenses will have to register. I have seen these issues raised in the past and through the cooperation of many people, it all seems to work out in the end. I think the safety of our citizens is one of our primary responsibilities as government.

Thank you for your time and support,

Sheriff Roy E. Miller